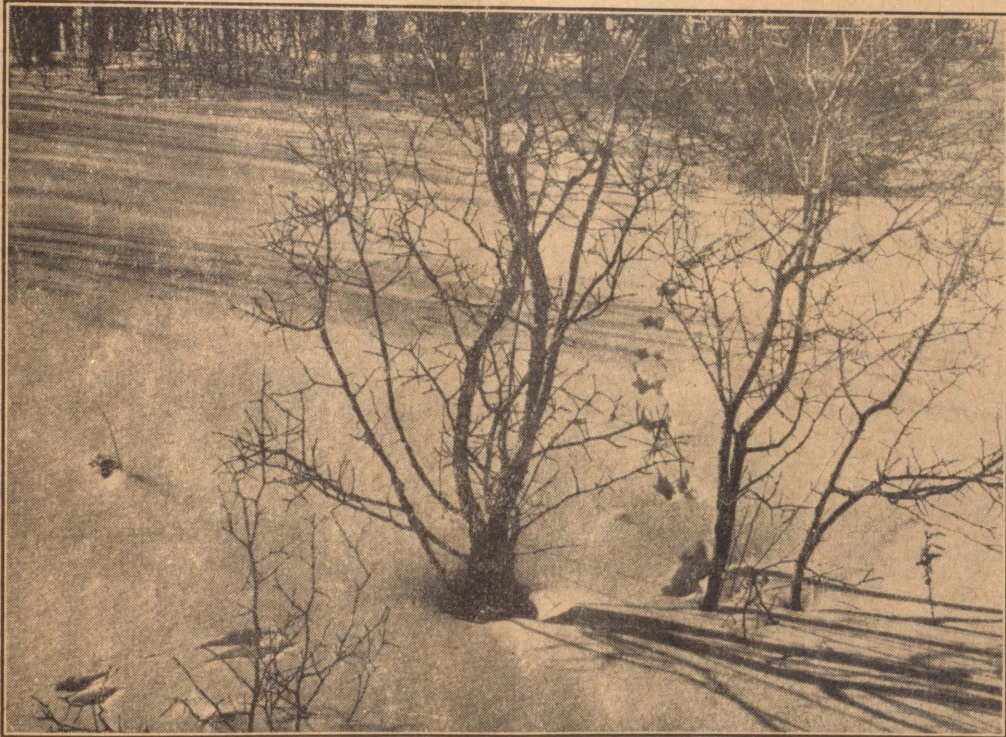


MACDONALD COLLEGE JOURNAL



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JANUARY
1951

Farm · Home · School



THE MACDONALD LASSIE



When the Wind's Howling Around

This is usually the snowed-in season on the farm, when frequent blizzards block the roads and pile snow high around the buildings. It's the season when farm people do only the essential outside work, and take time off to catch a long breath before the sugaring season arrives.

But even while taking that long breath there's little time wasted on most farms. There's feed to be ground and seed to be cleaned and machinery to be put into shape for spring. There are a thousand and one little jobs to be done around the house and barns; some have been waiting for months to find a spare minute. They're mostly tinkering jobs — the kind we can do without keeping our minds too tightly fastened down to them. So while we're doing them we can think of other things.

What sort of thing can we think of? Well, of course, some people day-dream of sun swept beaches on tropical islands, complete with all the Hollywood trimmings. Others may dream of an office job where there's no need to freeze their hands, working on cold machines. But most of our thoughts are tied up with our daily lives — the problems we've bumped into, and what we can do about them.

We have a splendid chance to mull over our plans for next season, and see where little changes would help.

We may remember things that need to be done before that season arrives — things to be ordered or repairs to be made, so there won't be any hold-up once the fields are ready. We can think of all sorts of things that will help us get along better in the future.

But thoughts of this sort have a habit of abandoning us just as quickly as they came, and refusing to be conjured back by any blandishments. So it's a good idea to keep a notebook in a pocket and jot down these little inspirations, so our own wobbly memories won't cost us all the benefits we've thought of. Then, after the chores, we can write and order the things we need, and talk over our plans with the family.

Nor is that the end of the day, as it might have been a generation ago. Now, with electric lights, the long winter evenings provide time for reading — reading that will help in our daily work, or community undertakings, or simply for our own enjoyment, then and there. Whatever we want to read about, there's a book or magazine that can provide us with it.

And there's nothing much more enjoyable than sitting down with a good book, when the work's all done for the day and we can smile to ourselves because we don't have to go out in that howling wind.

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One Kind of Crop Insurance

The use of good seed is one of the best means of insuring a crop. Here Dr. Lods explains what is meant by good seed, what benefits it has to offer, and how to be sure of getting it.

by E. A. Lods

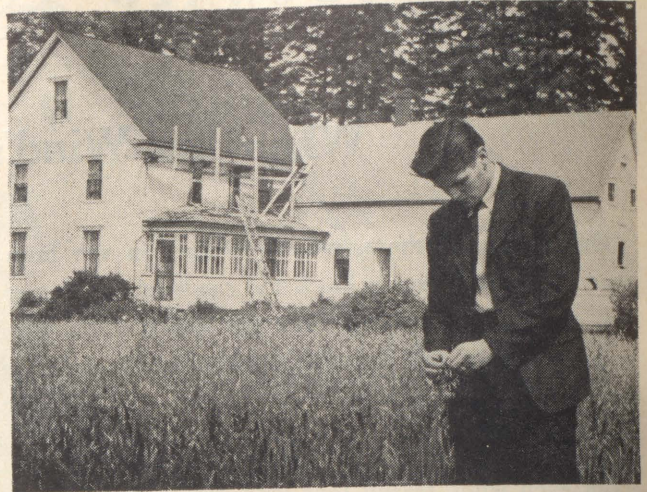
FROM many quarters we hear complaints about prices — that the cost of producing crops is too high and that the market value of these crops is too low. I offer no solution to that riddle. But I do suggest that the trouble can in part be alleviated by more uniform production of crops — production with fewer ups and downs. One of the means of doing this is through the use of good seed.

Good seed is a means of reducing crop losses. I quite realize that the use of good seed will not give the crop water when it does not rain; it will not give the crop plant nutrients when the soil is impoverished; it will not make early seeding possible when continuous cool, wet conditions prevent the farmer from working his land. However, good seed is the start of a good plant and so, of a good crop.

Good seed is usually described as bright coloured, heavy seed free from weeds — and seed that will grow. But this is an inadequate description of good seed. Suppose we tackle this matter from the point of view of the practical man growing crops.

To begin with, it is necessary to decide upon the variety to be used. It is necessary to use a variety adapted to the climate and season where the crop is to be grown and, in addition, a variety suited for the purpose to which the crop is to be put. Most of us probably would say that the first consideration would be yielding ability. However, there are many varieties of corn which have the capacity to produce high yields but which are not suited to some districts — not suited because these varieties cannot reach the desired state of maturity because the season is too short. Therefore attention must be paid to whether the variety is early-maturing enough to produce good silage.

The same can be true of crops which we want to ripen, such as oats. For example, let us consider the Roxton oat, which probably is potentially the highest-yielding oat in this province. It is late-maturing, ripening about a day or two later than Banner. In some districts farmers do not grow this variety as it would ripen at a season when harvesting is very difficult. In other districts the crop would be exposed to very hot and very dry conditions



The money to repair the house will come from this fine field of oats being examined by Harold Rogers, agricultural representative at Perth, N.B.

shortly after it has headed, and so the grain would fill very poorly. In both cases an earlier variety which may not have the same capacity for yield should be used — in one district to obtain ease of harvesting, and in the other to have the crop coming in head before the extremes of heat and drought.

Should Resist Disease

Resistance to disease — for example resistance to rust — will influence the grower in his choice of variety. In some cases strength of straw is the important factor. In other cases, as with the swede or rutabaga for table use, appearance, smoothness and quality may be major factors in choice of variety.

In Quebec the choice of variety need not be left to chance, as each year the Quebec Seed Board issues a list



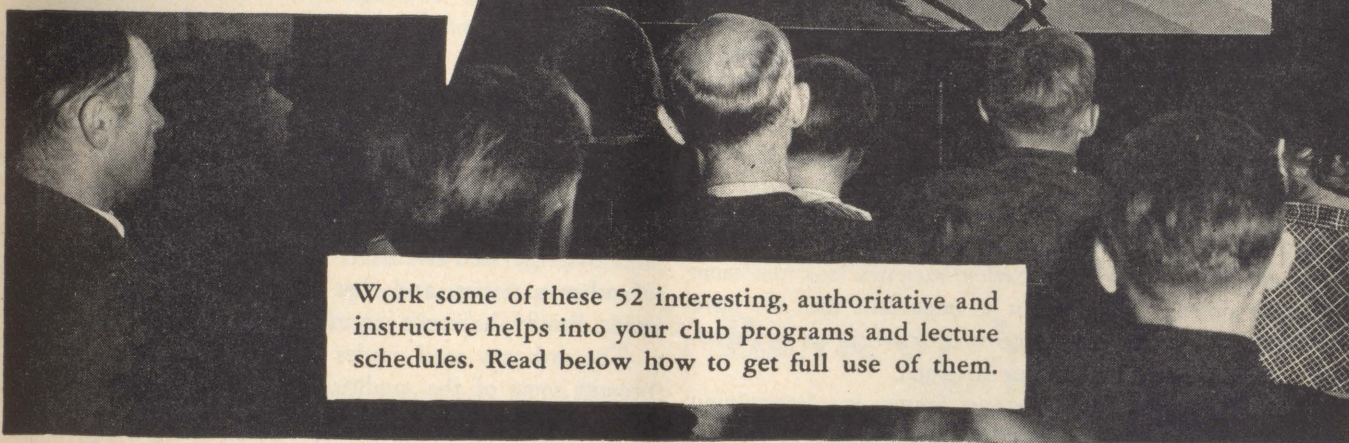
Farmers at a field day inspect plots in which different varieties of oats are grown side by side so that they can easily be compared.

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of recommended varieties. This list is drawn up after studying tests of varieties conducted in different parts of the province and after giving careful consideration to the experience of farmers.

Let us presume that we have decided upon a variety and now we are looking for seed — what qualities do we want in the seed?

In the first place there is genuineness — genuineness as to crop and genuineness as to variety. In genuineness as to crop there are no difficulties with such crops as oats, corn, barley, buckwheat or red clover. We recognize them when we see them. With some crops, however, such is not the case. How many of us can distinguish between the seeds of soft turnips and swedes or rape? Almost every year, somewhere, some grower has planned to grow swedes but when the crop was well up he found that he had used seed of soft turnip or of rape. Somewhere a mistake was made and the grower had a loss.

They Look Alike

Most of us cannot distinguish between varieties when examining the seed. The different varieties of yellow corn and many of the oat and barley varieties look the same to most people. Therefore it is important that we have assurance of genuineness as to variety when we buy seed. We want the seed to be true to name.

Purity is another important factor in determining quality of seed. We want purity as to crop. When we buy alfalfa seed we do not want a high percentage of sweet clover. When we buy oats, we do not want seed containing barley and wheat. Also we want purity as to variety. It is granted that having mixtures of varieties of the same general type may not be serious. However, the mixture may spoil the crop. In the case of cash crops the impurities will often reduce the value of the crop. Impurities may be lower-yielding or may mature at a different time, either earlier or later; or the impurities may be subject to disease.

Further, as regards purity, we want the seed to be free from weed seeds. It is poor economy to pay a high price for weed seeds, and it is poor husbandry to put weed seeds in the field. It is specially serious when the weeds so introduced are classed as noxious because of their being specially injurious.

Finally, and of major importance, the seed must be alive. It must have the power to grow. Not only must the percentage of germination be high, but the seed must germinate with vigour so that it will produce strong seedlings.

For a number of crops such seed can be obtained. Registered seed possesses the qualities mentioned. In the first place it is true to name and genuine as to variety. Registration involves a pedigree and an unbroken record on the books of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association from one crop generation to another. This is supported

by an inspection of the standing crop every season. This inspection makes it possible to check the identity of the variety and the freedom of the crop from the presence of other varieties. In the inspection, attention is given also to the presence of other crops as impurities, and to disease.

Numerous Checks Made

If the crop inspection report is accepted, the crop is registered. After the seed is prepared it is inspected. If the seed passes very high standards for freedom from weed seeds and other kinds of grain, it is registered. To reduce the chances of error to a minimum, each package of seed, bag of grain or small package of other seeds is specially labelled and the label sealed on the opening of the package. The label bears the registration number so that its origin can be traced.

Registered seed is not necessarily pretty seed. It does not always surpass other seeds in size, uniformity, and colour. Very frequently other seed is more attractive. But registered seed is good seed in the true sense of the word. The grower who obtains registered seed has a high degree of assurance that he is getting the variety he wants and that the seed is free from other kinds of crops and of other varieties, and that it contains very few weed seeds. Briefly, he is not buying a pig in a poke.

The ordinary seed grades — Nos. 1, 2, or 3 seed — present some of the qualities desired in seed. The users of such seed at least can know the minimum standards for these grades. The grading is based on weed content, the presence of other kinds of crops and germination. However, the purchaser of such seed has no assurance that he obtains the variety he desires, nor has he any assurance that he is not getting a mixture of varieties.

Ordinary No. 1 seed of oats may contain eight times as many weed seeds and one hundred times as many seeds of other crops as are permitted in Grade 1 registered seed. The same grade may contain two and one half times as many weed seeds, and fifty times as many seeds of other crops, as are permitted in No. 3 grade registered seed. Only as regards germination is ordinary No. 1 seed superior to No. 3 registered seed.

Another Class of Seed

There is another class of seed — that known as certified. In varieties which are eligible for registration, certified seed can be obtained only from a crop produced from registered seed.

Seed eligible to be classed as certified is from crops which have been field-inspected and from crops which are known to be really true to variety name. The standards of purity are not as high as for registration.

Seed of clover, timothy, and some other forage crops of unknown variety can be certified. But certification is granted only if the fields were free of certain weeds. The user of such seed is assured that the seed is quite pure

and that it is from crops grown in Canada. In the case of red clover where winter hardiness is important, this knowledge is of value.

Registered and Certified seed is not fancy seed. It is farmers' seed. It is seed for which there should be a steady demand by those who wish to grow good crops.

For oats or barley it is not necessary to purchase such seed in quantities to meet the entire requirement of the farm. It's often a good idea to buy just enough for a seed plot to supply the next year's needs. However, where there is to be a change of variety or where the stock is to be renewed registered or certified seed — preferably registered — should be used. It is insurance against producing an inferior crop.

Good seed is necessary to produce good crops. More especially should good seed be used when care has been given to growing crops on good land after good seed bed preparation.

Make Pig Brooders Safe

Don't overlook the safety angle when fixing up the pig brooder or heat lamp for spring-farrowed pigs, warns extension swine specialist E. L. Quaife of Iowa State College.

Either pig brooders or heat lamps can be easily and inexpensively fixed up, and are necessary if losses from chilling are to be avoided, especially with February or March-farrowed pigs. But hog house fires are reported each spring, and certain safety precautions are needed.

Where the pig brooder is used, Quaife makes the following recommendations.

Build the brooder strong enough so that the sow cannot tear it down or reach the heat bulb or extension cord. It may be built permanently into the corner of the farrowing pen, or it may be made so that it can be readily moved from one pen to another.

In the brooder the bulb should be about 14 inches above the pigs and protected with wire netting so that neither the pigs nor the bedding can come in contact with it. Vary strength of heat bulbs in brooders according to weather and size of the pigs. In extreme weather 100 to 150-watt bulbs are often used, with bulbs ranging down to 50 watts for moderate temperatures.

For suspended heat lamps, the bulbs may have a strength of 250 watts. Heat lamps should be suspended near the corner of the pen over the nest and high enough above the sow so that she cannot reach them. Extension cords should also be kept beyond reach. Cover each lamp with a shield to protect it from dripping water. Water striking the hot lamps would break them and cause a fire.

One other practice Quaife warns against is the overloading of electric circuits.



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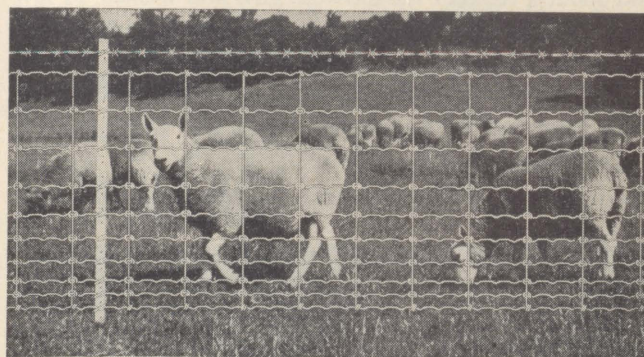
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Where Work and Play Did Mix

When 53 people from all over English-speaking Quebec got together to study agriculture and community organization at Macdonald College during Christmas week, their hard work didn't keep them from having a good time.

by J. S. Cram

"NO, they were all fun," said one of the younger students at the Macdonald College Christmas short course. He was answering the question: "Did the presence of older people cramp your style?" And another boy drew a big hand when he added: "We learned a lot from them, too."

The mature people replied in kind when the question was turned around. Those from 40 to 70 enjoyed the freshness, the enthusiasm and the vitality of the others, who ranged down to fifteen. And not infrequently the youngsters were able to teach their elders something.

Nor was the only difference that of age; their backgrounds, too, were varied. Six of the 53 students came from the Gaspé peninsula; and 11 were from Brome county, just north of the U.S. border. Representing 11 counties, they came from a strip over 600 miles across; and about a third of the lot were girls and women. A few were French-speaking. Together they brought in a lot of divergent viewpoints. And they brought, too, a great deal of ability and information, along with the desire to learn more and to develop new skills.

They listened attentively while Dr. W. H. Brittain, vice-principal, welcomed them to Macdonald College.



Professor H. R. C. Avison leads a session on community organization.

They nodded agreement when he said: "We can't have really progressive farmers until we have better communities. The emphasis in our short courses is now being put on proper training in community work — training for people who have the urge to make their home districts better places, and who are willing to spend the time and take the trouble to learn how to do this."

Named Their Own Officers

On the very first evening the students elected their own officers to take charge of arrangements. They decided to have a different chairman and secretary for each full day of the course. The chairmen elected were Miss Frances Beattie, Cowansville; Sherman Young, Abercorn and Gerald Corey, Bedford. The three secretaries were Mrs. H. T. Strange, East Farnham; Elton Hayes, Shigawake and Shirley Baker, Sutton.

They decided also to elect a number of committees for the duration of the course. The recreation committee included Regis Vachon, Dunkin; Fred Korman, Mansonville; and Lillian Sanborn, Knowlton. The committee on books and films consisted of Ken Bachelder, Rougemont; Jim McGerrigle, Ormstown and Evelyne Dimock, Black Cape. In charge of refreshments were Mrs. C. Dougall, East Farnham; Duncan McNaughton, Dalhousie Station and Vance Lepage, Port Daniel Centre.

The important task of keeping the meeting rooms in order was handled by Carl Vaughan, Bedford and Don McGregor, Dalhousie Station. Merton Glen of Bristol was a one-man house committee for the males, and Mrs. Strange had the same responsibility for the girls' dormitory. Timekeeper, to see that sessions started and ended promptly, was Keith Sweetman of Port Daniel Centre.

The program included lectures on agricultural subjects, discussions on community organization, films on subjects related to the course, workshops where students learned



Folk dancing was one of the most popular types of recreation.

useful skills, and recreation periods where everyone joined in having a good time.

At the end of the course a poll was taken to see which sessions had been the most popular. Every session had at least one supporter for this honor, but a series on running the organization came out on top. It included "Conduct of a Meeting" by J. T. Davidson, "Duties of Officers" by H. R. C. Avison and "How to Handle Publicity" by J. S. Cram.

Woodlots Appeared

Second in popular appeal was a talk on woodlots by Ellwood Wilson, District Forester at Knowlton and one of Canada's pioneers in forest conservation. Mr. Wilson pointed out that a good woodlot is one of the best types of security a farm family can have. For example, he said, if the waste land in Brome County alone were planted to trees they would have a capital value of \$3,500,000 within 25 years.

He went on to say: "But production of trees is not enough. As it is now, many farmers sell their timber for much less than it is worth. . . . What we need now, most of all, is to get groups of farmers together to cut, saw and market their timber co-operatively, so they can get the best possible returns for it."

He pointed out that farmers can now get free advice from district foresters on woodlots, just as they can from agronomes on farming. The biggest trouble was that there were only 11 district foresters in all of Quebec, and only a couple of these spoke English.

Also high in popularity was a talk on pastures by Professor L. C. Raymond and one on livestock management by Prof. L. H. Hamilton, both of Macdonald College. Their sessions, together with Mr. Wilson's, made up a series focussed on conservation of natural resources.

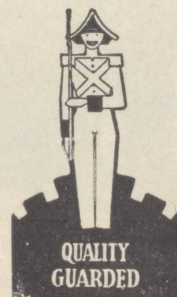
The recreation sessions were planned by the student committee and led by Miss Patricia Brown of the Macdonald College School for Teachers. They included square



Students discussed community matters in small groups, which later reported on problems and possible solutions to the main meeting, where these points were further discussed with the leaders.

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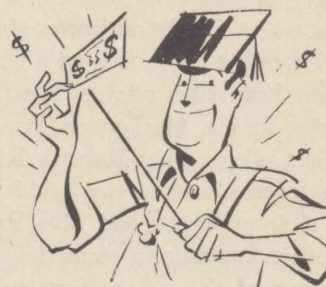
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Dr. F. O. Morrison, chairman of the field day committee at Macdonald College, leads a group of students off for a tour of the barns.

dances, folk dances, popular dances, mixing games and community singing. A great many ideas and talents were contributed by members of the short course.

The favorite workshop was one in projector operation, where almost half the students learned how to handle and service a sound projector, under the instruction of Jacques Biron, M. G. Bastien and John Verge of the National Film Board. Others turned out some creditable posters in a workshop led by Miss Elizabeth Jaques of the school for Teachers, while still others did leather work with Misses Fraser and Taylor.

Tells of Bookmobile Plans

A new plan for setting up a bookmobile service for the Eastern Townships was described by Miss Mavis Clarke, librarian for the MacLennan Travelling Libraries at Macdonald College. Miss Roberta Ridley told how the college's Information Service could help people and groups with their problems; and Miss Patricia Brown led a discussion on community recreation.

A tour of the college farm provided a chance to see the livestock and the methods used at the college, and at least one of them rated this tour the most interesting part of the course.

When the students were asked for suggestions on how to make the 1951 short course even better than this one, many of them said this year's was so good they couldn't see any possible way of improving it — and then they went ahead and made some very helpful suggestions. The most important one was that the agricultural content of the course be expanded, to include soil conservation, dairying, farm mechanics, marketing and fertilizers, in that order of preference.

Along with this request for more agriculture came a suggestion that while the boys were taking these courses for one or two periods a day, the girls should have parallel sessions in household science.

At the end of the session Miss Frances Beattie, speaking for the students, moved a vote of thanks to the College and staff for the interesting and instructive course. In replying H. R. C. Avison, director of the Adult Education Service and of the course, said that this had been a remarkably fine body of students to work with, and that he hoped they would put what they had learned to work when they went back home. He also promised that all their suggestions would be carefully considered, and that as many as possible would be worked into the 1951 short course.

Does Not Affect Marketing Boards

Decision of the supreme court of Canada, announced recently, that the federal government and provincial governments cannot exchange or delegate from one to the other powers under the constitution, has no effect upon the operation of provincial marketing boards under the federal marketing act, known as "Bill 82".

This was made clear to the Canadian Federation of Agriculture by officials of the federal department of agriculture following the announcement of the decision.

Good Breeding for Easy Feeding

Gaining ability and efficiency in the use of feed are inherited to a considerable degree in beef cattle. As a rule, stretchy, good-boned cattle eat more, gain faster and make more efficient use of feed than do the fine-boned, pony-type cattle of the same age.

"JOE BEAVER"

By Ed Nofziger



Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture

"I build my dams at the source of a river—makes for less sediment at the mouth."

How Much Ice to Store

This is the season when many farmers are busily engaged in storing enough ice for next summer's requirements. However, there still remain a large number of farms on which ice cannot be found once the creeks are running free.

One does not need an elaborate building. The main requirements of the storage, according to Angus Banting, Agricultural Engineer, Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Truro, N.S., are good drainage to carry away the water from the melting ice, a roof good enough to keep the rain off the ice and good ventilation over the pile. A foot of gravel underneath the ice will provide drainage, and a foot or more of sawdust around the sides of the pile and over the top will provide the insulation necessary to keep the pile from melting too rapidly.

Since the wastage in ice is roughly 35 percent, this factor must be taken into consideration when calculating the amount of ice needed for the summer months. Where milk is cooled for shipment, it is usually agreed that 2½ tons per cow should be stored. An ice refrigerator takes about 3 tons per season and, of course, the amount which Junior will want for ice cream will depend on how often he will be allowed to empty the cream can. A ton of ice occupies a space of 45 cubic feet, roughly, so the size of the storage can be calculated without too much difficulty.

A Lot of Lumber Needed

It takes from 1,200 to 1,500 board feet of lumber each year for the average farm, reports Dick Campbell, extension forester at Iowa State College.

He says an acre of well-managed woodlot will produce about 300 board feet per year. This means that about 5 acres of good woodlot is needed to supply enough lumber for the farm.

Fence posts aren't figured in on that. The extension forester says a farm needs about 80 posts per year. This figures out to around 400 board feet and would require more than an acre extra.

Campbell figures a saving of \$110 per thousand board feet for farmers who grow their own lumber rather than buy it.

Farmers with woodlots will want to decide now on their lumber needs for 1951. Then they can saw the lumber during the winter and stack and store it before spring work begins. Better lumber is obtained from logs that are sawed up as soon as the trees are cut.

With green boards it's important to leave plenty of air space on all sides of each board, and make sure the lumber is off the ground.



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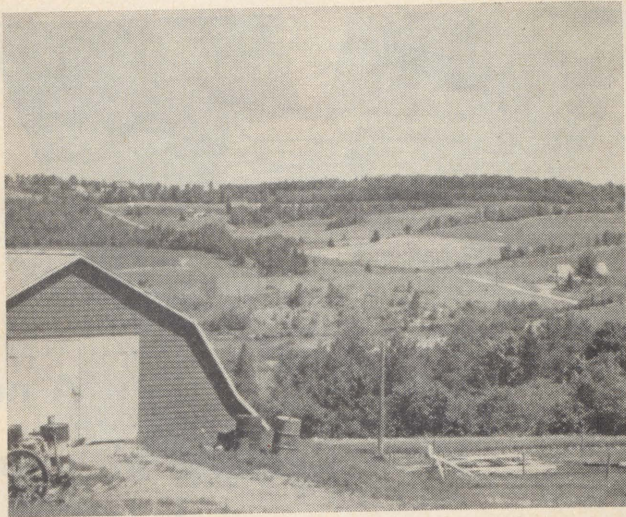
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*Casida, McShan and Meyer (1944), *J. Animal Sci.*, 3:273.



As big as farms at Lake Edward, N.B. . . .



. . . or as those around Clive, Alberta?

How Big Is Big Enough?

"MANY people are wondering whether we may have moved too far in the direction of achieving efficiency merely by expanding farm acreage," says Baldur H. Kristjanson of the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station, Fargo, N.D.

Mr. Kristjanson points out that mechanization has radically changed man's ability to handle grain acreage. This advance in farm technology, coupled with good yields and farm prices during the past decade, has been moving the size of farms upward.

But larger farms have meant a smaller number of farms. Fewer families in rural communities have brought problems in maintaining all types of community services — schools, churches, electrification, health and all kinds of organizations. With the move in the direction of fewer and larger farms, the opportunities for farm boys to become farmers has dwindled. High capital requirements are moving ownership out of reach for many a competent farmer. These trends conflict with the desire to keep farmers' access to ownership open.

There is no agreement on how far the movement to expand farm size should go. There are those who seek to establish the largest number of farms which can support farm families in reasonable comfort; and there are others who believe that expansion should continue to whatever size is consistent with highest efficiency.

Not Enough Information

However, there is not enough definite information available to establish the requirements for either of these objectives. No one knows how large a farm needs to be to remain solvent over the years; or what reductions in cost of production are possible with very large farms.

"The controversy which has developed over the 'large farm' issue is based upon inadequate information," says

This question is always good for an argument. Few people agree on the best size for a family farm. But one thing seems certain — that people on farms of all sizes are faced with problems that they can't solve individually, but which they may handle through joint action.

Mr. Kristjanson. "Even if we could assume that every one is in favor of the 'family farm' we would still be faced with considerable differences of opinion as to what constitutes a family farm."

But most people, when speaking of a family farm, mean one on which most of the labor is furnished by the farm family, and one which is large enough to furnish a reasonable standard of living through the years.

Mr. Kristjanson says that further increases in farm size are likely to come more slowly. Two-thirds of the larger farmers he had interviewed said they planned no further expansion. There were four reasons for this.

First, families do not leave their farms just for a price. Second, there is some evidence that the housewife resists the addition of hired help to the family unit. Third, hired labor must be screened carefully for economic operation of costly modern machinery. Fourth, most farmers have had little experience in labor-management relations on any extensive scale.

While there is good reason for concern over the trend toward larger-than-family farms, Mr. Kristjanson believes we should be equally concerned about improving the

earning power of farms at the lower end of the scale. There are still many farms too small to yield an adequate family income over the years. Mechanization has brought with it a high degree of "cash" farming, which means less flexibility when conditions become unfavorable. The tractor cannot be operated on farm-grown fuels. Rural electrification spells higher cash outlay for appliances and operating costs. And farm families are demanding more equality of opportunity with city folks.

Sees Other Answers

It might well be that more land is not the only way to meet these needs, he says. Larger and better livestock enterprises may make an equally important contribution to better family living.

He concludes that the great challenge which lies ahead is to organize our farming operations and financial arrangements so that substantial cash reserves can be accumulated in good years; that crop insurance is available on reasonable terms; and that credit arrangements are sufficiently flexible that the best interests of both creditor and debtor are served in the long run.

These conclusions are not exactly radical; they're just the sort of thing that farmers everywhere have always wanted. The real challenge is to find ways of doing these things. The cash reserves that farmers can accumulate depend, not only on efficient farm operation, but on the relationship between the prices of what they have to buy and what they have to sell.

A few farmers can secure a favorable relationship between these prices by producing special crops for premium markets. But not all farmers have the ability or the information required to do that; and anyway, as soon as even a fair number of farmers started doing it, their crops would no longer be special and they would command no premium. The standards would just be advanced.

And certainly, no one farmer is able to coax anyone to give him favorable crop insurance terms; otherwise, all would have them immediately. The same goes for credit arrangements.

There is a distinct limit to how far any one farmer, or small group of farmers, can go in reaching these objectives. But if farmers as a whole go after them that will be a different thing.

"Going after them" doesn't mean simply passing resolutions asking that government departments do something about these things. It means farmers everywhere getting together in their own local groups to study possible solutions to these problems, which are common to all, and then setting up the necessary machinery to put the most practical solutions into operation.

Many farmers, for instance, have found an answer to the first problem — cash reserves — through forming co-operatives to buy supplies and sell farm products. By saving much of the retailer's or wholesaler's margin, they have been able to build up their savings in good times,

to tide them over the bad. Many have used credit unions as a means of building up savings and securing good credit arrangements at the same time.

To our knowledge, crop insurance has not yet been tackled successfully by any co-operative group. It carries too much hazard to be handled locally, or even regionally. But in Western Canada farmers have been furnished with a minimum of protection against crop failure by the Prairie Farm Assistance Act, which provides for cash payments to farmers in areas where crop damage from drought or other cause has led to low returns. A deduction of 1 percent is made on all grain marketed by Western farmers as a partial offset to the cost of the payment.

But even this scheme is far from satisfactory. In the first place one farmer may suffer an almost complete crop loss; but unless his township has suffered seriously as a whole, he will receive no assistance. In the second place, this scheme is limited to Western Canada.

Many farmers are firmly convinced that there is a need for a more flexible scheme to cover all Canada, so that any farmer who suffers a severe crop loss will receive something to finance his operations. But merely asking the government to provide such a scheme will not be likely to secure a satisfactory solution. A determined effort on the part of farmers to secure one is required; and such an effort will come only as a result of serious study of the possibilities.

Ewes Bred Twice in Year

A hormone injection which enables sheep to breed twice a year has been announced at Fort Collins, Colorado. The hormone is gonadotropin, which costs from 20 to 25 cents per ewe.

Dr. Frank X Gassner of the University of Colorado experiment station at Fort Collins, conducted experiments on 535 ewes, all of which had lambed since January. Some 320 of them responded to the hormone treatment and were bred for fall lambs.



FROM COAST TO COAST



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

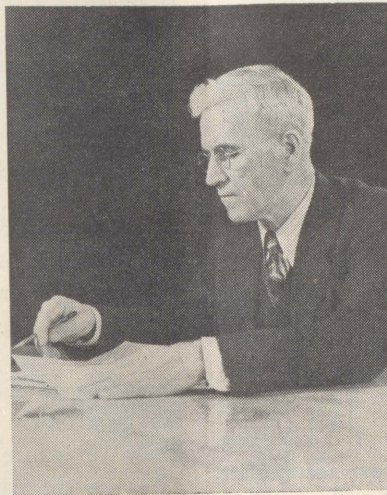
*Activities, Plans and Policies of the Quebec
Department of Agriculture*

A New Year's Message From The Minister

It is a real pleasure for me to extend to you at this time the Compliments of the Season, and the wish for a happy and prosperous New Year.

We in this province have been blessed by a bountiful Providence with all the resources we have need of to create a good life, and in sufficient abundance to provide adequately for our evergrowing population.

Although ninety percent of our land area is unsuitable for cultivation, we still carry on our agricultural production on no less than nine million acres, and the spirit of Louis Hebert, our pioneer farmer who plowed Quebec's first field in 1617, is still abroad in our land. With roots firmly fixed in the soil, the farm folk of Quebec can face the future with confidence, secure in the knowledge that they have the skills to make



the best use of the natural resources which have been placed at their disposal.

The past year was the best on record for agricultural production. All crops gave yields of un hoped for size, and the total production of foodstuffs has been estimated to be worth some \$45,000.00. If, as the economists tell us, the condition of agriculture is a barometer of the condition of the country as a whole, Quebec starts the new year in an enviable position. In spite of the international situation, with its inevitable repercussions here at home, we hope and believe that our

farmers will find attractive and profitable markets for their products.

Let us give thanks together for an abundant harvest, and may we all live during 1951 in peace, brotherhood and happiness.

Take Advantage of Postal R.O.P.

Mr. J. H. Cimon, of the Animal Husbandry Service, reminds us that this is the time for farmers who have not taken advantage of the Department's postal R.O.P. service to make arrangements to do so. "There is no better way of finding out which cows in the herd are just 'boarders'", says Mr. Cimon, pointing out that a great many farmers in this province are giving stable room and feed to cows who are not paying for their keep. In the average herd, the lactation period lasts between eight and nine months of the year. In 1949, of 4,560 cows on postal R.O.P. during eight months gave an average yield of 5,083 pounds of milk and 196 pounds of fat. Cows on R.O.P. during nine months yielded an average of 5,831 pounds of milk and 224 pounds of fat. Since many of the herds reported in the above figures have been under control for as much as fifteen years in some cases, it is very evident that our grade cows, for which we have no figures, give yields which are still lower than those quoted above.

There is little profit from any herd with an average fat production of less than 200 pounds. And one must

know exactly what any individual cow in producing, both in milk and butter fat, to know if she is worth keeping in the herd. And this information can be obtained through the Department's postal record of production services.

Yield is the most important item in the cost of production of milk. But unless a farmer knows just how much each of his cows produces, how can he know which individuals are making a profit for him, and which are just coasting, or even costing more to maintain than they return him in milk? He cannot make any wise adjustments in his herd without this information. And he cannot do it properly on the results of only one lactation, for any progressive farmer's herd is continually changing. New animals come into the herd, others go out, and it is most important to know which are the productive blood-lines.

R.O.P. gives immediate results; makes it possible to increase your herd's production by telling you which cows should be eliminated; gives savings in feed by making it possible to feed each cow according to her production.

Improvements in the System

The postal R.O.P. system has recently been modified and improved, so that it now works better and more easily than before; and never before, in face of the cost of feed contrasted with prices for dairy products, has the necessity for control been so great. The laboratories of the Department have been modernized and improved, so that the milk samples can be handled more quickly and reports mailed out earlier; also, more samples can now be handled. But the Department urges that only serious farmers, who intend to carry through with the programme for at least one complete lactation of each cow, should take advantage of the system.

Your agronome or field-man will be glad to give you all the details of the postal R.O.P. system, and you are urged to consult him as soon as possible if you wish to start an accurate control of your herd.

Next Year's Grain Seed

Quebec farmers depend on Western growers for a large part of their seed grain requirements, even though Quebec-grown seed is better adapted to our particular conditions than is seed grown elsewhere. As a matter of fact, much of the Western grain used as seed by Quebec farmers is feed, not seed, grain, without any guarantee as to variety. Germination power of this seed is usually low, and there is often a lot of weed seed in it.

The Seeds Act sets forth minimum standards for germination of the different grades of seed, as follows: No 1, 85%; No. 2, 75%; No. 3, 65%. But of 48 samples of Manitoba oats tested, 13% had a germination power of less than the minimum of 65%. In Saskatchewan oats, out of 235 samples, 40% was below the minimum and in Alberta stocks, out of 688 samples, 29% were below.

The situation with regard to barley was a little better. Manitoba, out of 72 samples, 4%; Saskatchewan, 177 samples, 29%; Alberta, 353 samples, 13% below 65%, the minimum allowed under the Seeds Act for No. 3 grade.

Obviously, the farmer who sows this kind of seed is following a pretty short-sighted policy and wasting money buying it, especially in view of today's prices.

There is a lot of excellent grain on our farms this winter, following last fall's record harvest in this province. There is plenty of oats and barley which would make fine seed if it were properly prepared for this purpose. Why use it all for feed and then go out and buy more for seed?

Of course, there are a lot of farmers who won't be able to do this; their crop wasn't properly stored, or else they harvested it before it was fully ripe. But anyone who has grain that would make good seed should try to save some of it for this purpose.

The Provincial Seed Board urges all farmers who have potential seed on hand to clean some of it up and offer it for sale as seed. But it also points out that the time to do

this is now — not at the last moment. The trade likes to know ahead of time where it will be able to get its supplies. Seed firms know pretty well what the demand will be and they don't wait until the spring to arrange for their source of supplies.

This suggestion is directed particularly at those districts where seed growing is well organized, and where named varieties are being multiplied. Co-operatives should urge their members to have their seed cleaned at once so that a good idea can be obtained of what supplies will be available. Naturally, cleaning and grading must be carefully done. And, in offering this seed for sale, it is unlikely that prospective purchasers will be interested in small lots — the trade will want 1500 to 200 bushel shipments as a minimum.

Three distinct groups should be interested in this suggestion:

1. The grower who has a surplus of good quality grain, or who, though he may not have more than he needs, can easily replace what he sells for seed by buying grain for feeding purposes.

2. Farmers who have to buy seed; they are interested in getting seed of satisfactory germinating ability and of good quality, and they would just as soon buy it locally if they can.

3. The trade, which is interested in selling seed that will perform properly on their customers' farms.

But it is up to the co-operatives and their cleaning centres to get their members to start bringing in their grain early, and it is also up to the co-operatives to see to the final sale of the cleaned and graded seed.

Preliminary Results In Barley Contest

We regret that we will not be able to bring you the results of the final judging in the National Barley Contest until our next issue, but the results of the regional contests, the entries in which were judged in December, are as follows:

District 1. 1st, J. Alph. Coutu; 2nd, Gustave Robichaud; 3rd, Pierre Tellier, all of Ste. Elisabeth de Joliette.

District 2. 1st, Marcelin Gagnon; 2nd, Antonio Deland; 3rd, C. A. Deland, all of l'Acadie, St. John.

District 3. 1st, Orval Smart, Shawville; 2nd, Ste. Therese Seminary; 3rd, Roland Ouellet, St. Janvier.

District 4. 1st, Alpheric Beaulieu, Ste. Martine; 2nd, Emile Lefebvre, St. Philomene; 3rd, Henri Brault, Ste. Martine.

District 5. Roger Jodoin, St. Hubert; 2nd, Alexis Surprenant, Brosseau Station; 3rd, Ernest Plourde, St. Basile.

District 6. Paul Emile Girard, Ste. Rosalie; 2nd, Donat Giard, Ste. Rosalie; 3rd, Bernard Blouin, St. Barnabe.

District 7. 1st, Rosario Brault, St. Edmond; 2nd, Paul Emile Bernard, Beloeil; 3rd, Albert Girouard, St. Antoine sur Richelieu.

Beekeepers Review The Year

A strong representation of the Quebec Beekeepers' Association turned out for the annual meeting of the society which was held in the Queen's Hotel in Montreal the middle of December. In addition to the usual business meetings, and the annual banquet, an exhibition of comb and of strained honey was arranged, with suitable prizes for the winners of the various classes.

Reporting on the general state of beekeeping in the Province, Mr. Jules Methot was obviously pleased to announce that the prevalence of American Foulbrood is definitely on the wane, and at the present rate of disappearance may be expected to disappear completely in a few years. His inspectors are continually on the watch for this dread disease, and prompt measures of destroying infected hives (for which compensation is paid, by the way) are having the desired effect.

The severe winter conditions of 1950, as they affected bees, resulted in the loss of 14,897 colonies, most of the killing taking place in Abitibi and Lake St. John, though loss was pretty general throughout the province, but on a smaller scale than in these two districts. Also, the winter-killing of clover, general throughout Quebec last winter, resulted in a considerably smaller crop than usual, but the situation looks brighter for 1951. Another result of the loss of colonies seems to have been that a number of farmers went out of bees last summer; most of them probably men who, having started on a small scale and without too much knowledge of the profession, decided to drop this part of their activities. On the other hand, a total of 219 new beekeepers started operations during the year.

To put it in tabular form, changes during 1950 were as follows:

	1950	1949
No. of beekeepers	4,029	4,872
No. of colonies	71,241	84,952

There are two men in Quebec who are making a good business of rearing and selling queens, and they raised and sold to Quebec farmers more than 3,000 queens during the year. So that these native bees can be sold in competition with imported bees, the Provincial Government underwrites the production and grants a bonus for each queen sold.

Mr. Methot looked at next season's operations optimistically, foreseeing prospects for an excellent crop, and improved marketing conditions. He pointed out that the Department is doing its best to encourage honey production in Quebec, even to the extent of providing containers for any apiculturist who wants to exhibit his honey at our major fairs. It is understood that no beekeeper will get rich on the prize money he may win, but the advertising is invaluable and quite out of proportion to the expense involved in setting up an exhibit.

One of the main speakers was J. H. Lavoie, Provincial Horticulturist, who in his usual forceful style urged the

importance of soil conservation, especially through the means of returning humus to the soil regularly and in good quantities. He admitted that, with the increasing difficulty of securing barnyard manure, especially in certain localities, this was quite a problem, but nevertheless one that must be solved if our soils are to be kept in reasonably good condition, both for our use and for use by future generations of farmers. He viewed with alarm the present condition of increasing population and decreasing fertility potential of our farming land.

In a drive for more membership, the Association sponsors a contest with a large silver cup, donated by Cyrille Vaillancourt, for the member who persuades the largest number of new members to join each year. For the third consecutive time the cup was won by J. B. Montambault of Batiscan, who now retains the cup permanently. In accepting it, he announced that he was donating a special prize of \$25 for next year's competition, and it is hoped that a suitable trophy will also be donated before the next annual meeting.

Of thirty-two samples of honey on display in the assembly rooms, all of which were judged during the proceedings, that of Roland Labonte of Victoriaville took first prize with Henri Michaud of St. Guillaume in second place. In the class for granulated honey, Hector Giard of Ste. Monique came first, and Louis Bossé, the Association's president, took first place for comb honey.

In still another competition, for the best sketch of a design that could be used on honey pails, G. A. Beaudry of Montebello won a special prize offered by the Continental Can Company.

The members passed a resolution asking the Department of Agriculture to amend the laws concerning orchard spraying; the same type of action as that requested earlier in the year by the Pomological Society. They also asked that publicity in favour of honey be continued, and that the Department of Agriculture offer grants to encourage more clover production. In this connection, a study committee was set up to discuss this with technicians of the Department.

Mr. Louis Bossé, Ste. Martine, was re-elected president, and all the members of the board of directors were also returned for another year.

Where Culling Pays

Rigid culling of poultry stock before sale continues to pay dividends for the poultrymen of Bouchette and Maniwaki in the Gatineau district, who sell their production co-operatively. Co-operators of Maniwaki this season disposed of 60,000 turkeys at the best prices they have ever received; 61¢ for specials, 60¢ for Grade A, 58¢ for Grade B, and 46¢ for Grade C.

And the policy of insisting on quality over the past few years proved its value this season, when 8% of

turkeys offered by raisers of the district, through the co-operatives, graded "special", 60% graded "A", 28% graded "B" and only 4% were in the "C" grade

The birds sold through the co-operative are all killed at home by the individual farmers, but grading is done at a central point under expert supervision. These co-operatives sales have been held regularly since 1939, and much of the success of turkey raising in this district stems directly to the unfailing efforts of the agronomes and poultry instructors to put poultry raising on its feet in these districts.

Dorchester For Turkeys

Dorchester County is far in the lead in turkey production in Quebec; this year, production has been over three quarters of a million pounds.

In the middle of December, the killing station at St. Anselme was handling something like 1500 birds a day, most of which came from Dorchester, though a small proportion came from other sections, particularly from around Valcartier. Most of this production went to Montreal.

Around Frampton, where for the most part killing is done at home, the town hall was turned into a grading station where the carcasses were graded and packed for shipment to the Co-operative Federee; the local co-op. made the arrangements for this community effort.

There was a little less production in the Frampton section this year, but the quality was better. Something in the neighbourhood of 70% of the carcasses graded "A", and less than 5% went into the "C" grade. High cost of feed, and deductions for over-weight birds account for some of the loss of volume, added to which is the fact that a number of raisers have gone out of turkeys, after trying their hand at this game for a short while, but without knowing enough about it to make a success.

The grading was done by some of the local young farmers, who had just returned from the grading course about which we spoke in the last issue.

Raoul Lecuyer Passes

The death occurred late in November of Mr. Raoul Lécuyer, a member of the staff of the Rural Economics Service of the Department of Agriculture, at the age of forty-six.

Mr. Lécuyer, who joined the Department in 1932, was a graduate of the University of Ottawa, of Oka, and of Cornell, where he specialized in economics. During the course of his employment by the Department he made many surveys of economic conditions in agriculture, the most recent of which was on the cost of milk production in Quebec, a report of which was published recently in the *Journal*.

We extend our sincere sympathy to his widow and his five small children.

Fertilizers In Good Supply

The Quebec Fertilizer Board took a look at the supply of fertilizer available for the 1951 season and were pleased with what they saw. There will be an abundance of phosphates, and potash can be imported from France as well as from the United States. Unless an accelerated war production programme should intervene, the outlook for fertilizers is better than it has been for several years.

The same mixtures will be available as in 1950; but efforts will be made to persuade more farmers to replace the old standbys, 2-12-6 and 4-8-10, with 2-16-6 and 5-10-13, which have less filler and are in consequence cheaper to use.

Members of the Board for 1951 will be Andre Auger, president; Auguste Scott, vice-president; J. A. Ste. Marie, C. A. Fontaine, W. A. DeLong and William House, directors; Roland Lesperance will continue as Secretary.

Cattle Export Rules Are Made More Liberal

Canadian cattle can now be shipped to the United States without being tested for brucellosis — contagious abortion — under new regulations. But these regulations require that they be accompanied by a certificate issued or endorsed by a veterinarian of the Canadian Government showing they were officially vaccinated as calves 6 to 8 months of age, in accordance with Canadian Government Regulations, within 22 months of their being offered for entry to the United States. The certificate accompanying such vaccinated cattle must show the date of vaccination of each animal.

The regulations cover only those cattle which have been vaccinated according to the requirements of the Dominion-Provincial Brucellosis Control Program. Cattle which have been vaccinated under other conditions will not be accepted for entry to the United States without being blood tested negative to Brucellosis, unless they are classed as animals for which a blood test is not required, such as cattle for immediate slaughter — steers, or spayed heifers.

The 6 to 8 months age range for vaccination actually means that calves may be classed as "officially vaccinated" if vaccinated at 6 months of age, and up to but not including 9 months of age.

In 1950, Quebec farmers cultivated 9,539,300 acres of land. On this they grew 2,178,000 acres of grain, 3,832,000 of hay, 340,300 acres of cultivated crops (beans, fodder corn, potatoes, turnips), and 3,189,000 acres were in pasture.



THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTES SECTION

*Devoted to the activities of the Quebec Institutes
and to matters of interest to them*

Post-Conference Tour of Canadian Party

by Lucilie E. Thomson

(In the previous issue of the Journal, Mrs. Thomson told of the trips taken in Denmark between sessions of the A.C.W.W. Conference. She takes us now into the countries toured after the Conference before sailing for home.)



Mrs. Thomson with her hostess,
Mrs. Mayelhout.

Holland

On the Continental Train we rode in comfort in our compartments; I shared mine with Mrs. McLeod from P.E.I. The countryside looked dreary in the rain and the fields not so fertile as in Denmark. (We crossed the corner of Germany

on our way to Holland). I saw a few sheep and some Holstein cows grazing in the meadows.

It was harvest time and women and children were busy digging potatoes and loading them into wagons. Not a tractor or a horse to be seen anywhere. Presumably the men, tractors and horses were busy elsewhere. As we moved south the land was flat, and I thought that we must be nearing Holland because canals divided the fields here, instead of fences.

At six o'clock I arrived at Deventer, Holland, and there my Dutch hostess was waiting for me. I will never forget her warm welcome. Mrs. Mayelhout was on the station platform and, as three of the Canadian delegates stepped off the train, she gathered us into her arms and said, "I'll take these three", and we rushed off with her to check our extra bag and catch a waiting bus for Holten. A beautiful drive through wooded, flat, rolling country and in about half an hour we were in Holten, each going our separate way home with a Dutch hostess.

Dr. and Mrs. Mayelhout were most hospitable and after a good supper — rich soup, cheese, jam and tea, we had "good conversation". No, it wasn't in Dutch — English, otherwise from my point of view it wouldn't have been "good".

Miss Catz, who was expecting a Canadian guest and didn't have one, joined us for the evening. They spoke about the Canadians and how eagerly the Dutch awaited the day of "Liberation". The doctor's house was partly

destroyed by a fire bomb — only the living room and doctor's office were saved. Sixty-seven farm homes and buildings were destroyed during the war. Some of them have been rebuilt. After breakfast of rolls, cheese, jam and coffee, the Doctor drove me to the "Catz" farm. It is quite a large farm run by the father, two sons, daughter, hired man and a maid. They keep Holstein cows and Yorkshire pigs. They make 45% milk cheese from their milk. I saw two tremendous cheeses in press and then down cellar, on wooden trays, I saw dozens of cheeses maturing. After six weeks they are sold for export.

On the farm I saw tidy buildings — and any number of hay and straw stacks, all with thatched roofs. One huge double stack, partly tumbled down, was where Mr. Catz had kept his team of horses hidden from the Germans during the occupation.

Miss Catz served very rich cake and coffee and it was time for us to say goodbye. I was sorry to leave as there was much more I wanted to see on this lovely farm.

I then joined our Canadian group and we travelled by bus with our Dutch hostesses to visit the Canadian Cemetery at Holten. There Mrs. Morton laid a wreath on the Memorial Cross. The cemetery is beautifully kept, lawns trim, flowers blooming in profusion. Each Canadian grave is tended by a Dutch woman, who takes a pride in keeping fresh flowers on the grave she has adopted.

We were the guests of the Dutch Federation for lunch at a hotel, the burgomaster welcomed us, and Mrs. Mayelhout, who is president of the Dutch Federation and looked lovely in a rose-coloured jersey dress, spoke about the work that the "Plattelands-vrouwen" accomplished in their district. Mrs. Hamilton thanked our hostesses and after a delicious lunch we were off in our buses once more.

At a farmstead about ten minutes drive from Holten we (still in the rain) sat down at long trestle tables in the stable for tea, cakes and fruit. Not a fly — not a smell! Evidently in this area the cows can stay out doors till December. Two steps up from the stable and we were in the beautiful large, old-fashioned, tiled house — red floor tiles, white with conventional design wall tiles, and a huge oil lamp hanging from a hook. The furniture was simple except for an ornate mahogany linen chest, or cup-

board, that was filled with hand-woven linens. A recess in one wall held a big double bed. The plate rail around the room held plates, brass and some luster jugs.

After tea we walked to another farm where we watched eight couples in Dutch costume, complete with wooden shoes, dance several folk dances. The music was gay, played on an accordion by an elderly man, and everyone was clapping, keeping time with the music. All too soon we had to say goodbye to our kind hostesses and board our bus to catch the Continental train at Deventer for The Hague. We all enjoyed our brief visit with the kind Dutch people.

Miss Brinken, director of the Netherlands W.I., met us at our hotel after breakfast and with her as guide we embarked for a tour in Holland with canals instead of roads dividing the farms. Here we also saw hundreds of greenhouses where the famous Holland hothouse grapes and flowers are grown for export. The farms are about 47 hectares — and all produce is shipped by canals (we saw several barges loaded with fruit, vegetables and flowers,) to the co-operative auction. It was on the site of these rich farms that the city proposed to develop a housing project. However the "Plattelands-vrouwen" protested and this housing project has been abandoned.

We visited the co-operative flower auction and the fruit auction. The peak sale in one day for flowers was 70,000 guilders and for fruits and vegetables 80,000 guilders — mostly for export trade. At the end of our visit the manager, who had been our guide, gave each of us a bunch of green and blue-black grapes. We had never tasted such wonderful, sweet grapes.

We then visited a domestic science school for girls, between the ages of 12-14, who have finished their elementary training. School opens at 8.30 and closes at 4.30, five days a week. Girls must attend school till they are 14, compulsory attendance, but parents must also pay school fees. The girls here are from the local farming district and must help with work at home. Courses in school are practical — cooking, sewing, hygiene, gardening. I was most impressed by the work accomplished by these girls. The school receives financial assistance from the co-operatives, the government and the Roman Catholic Church.

That afternoon we had tea at the Canadian Embassy and then had to rush to catch the evening train for Brussels.

Belgium

We had a very brief stay in beautiful Brussels, a city that in its lay-out reminded me very much of Quebec City. A very old city that has suffered some damage during both wars. The city is divided into lower and upper town. Upper town has wide boulevards, narrow cobbled streets, tall, old-fashioned stone houses that have been converted into business places. Here we visited the "Palais de Justice," the Parliament Buildings, the King's Palace, and

the tomb of the Unknown Soldier on Rue Royale. The popular shopping district was crowded with prosperous looking people, and the store windows seemed full of what we call "luxury goods", the first in any quantity that we had seen in Europe. Most of my shopping was window-shopping, as we were due to leave for Paris at 4.30 p.m.

A few of us took time to visit the Art Museum and saw many oil paintings by the old masters — Rubens, Van Dykes, etc.

France

The A.C.W.W. Canadian Party spent five fleeting days in France trying their best to see Versailles, Malmaison, Metropolitan Paris; to hear opera at L'Opera; and to exchange ideas with two farmers and the Director of the Confederation de la Famille Rurale.

France still shows the ugly marks of the occupation; visible ruins of rubble and skeleton buildings, and invisible marks, but none the less present, on the spirit of her people. The gaiety was missing. The French people seemed submerged under a heavy weight. However, we were conscious of the tremendous effort they are making to shake off the heavy hand of depression.

France was home to me, and even though I was not too successful as a Paris guide I could make the policemen understand what the party needed by way of direction and to repeat their replies to the group, and so saved many a perilous ride in a Paris taxi.

Thousands of sightseers, including ourselves, visited the Palace of Versailles on a warm sunny day to view the ornate architecture of the buildings, the luxurious decor of the interiors, the enchanting gardens famous for their fountains. These contrasted sharply with rustic Malmaison, its fields, mill streams and pond, and Swiss style thatched buildings telling the story of a past era.

A brief time was spent seeing the treasures of the Louvre, Tuilleries gardens, Napoleon's Tomb, the Eiffel Tower and the many beautiful bridges over the Seine, the Government buildings on the other side of the Quai D'Orsay. We also visited the Arc de Triomphe in the



General view of Canadian Cemetery, Holten, Holland.

Place de l'Etoile at the head of the Avenue des Champs Elysees where repose the remains of the Unknown Soldier.

The beautiful wide boulevards, changing name every few blocks, the "Places", or squares, are a living memory of the Napoleonic regime, as are the straight country roads on which we travelled to visit Chantilly, Beauvais, Compeigne Forest to visit two very large farms of about 1500 acres each, the one specializing in potatoes and onions and the other in canning peas and sugar beets for commercial alcohol, the canning and processing being done on the farms. The outside work is performed mostly by women. Our guide on this rural tour was a member of the French Government Agricultural Service, Mme



The Canadian group visits the Catz farm.

Petit, who arranged everything for us including our delightful lunch at a French inn, as well as our tour of the Quartier Latin in Paris afterwards. She also arranged an interview with the Director of the Confederation de la Famille Rurale, after which we realized that our work among rural women in Canada is much more advanced than is the case in France.

Everyone in the party was style conscious — who has not coveted a hat or a dress bearing a Paris label — and we all blossomed out in a rash of new hats to attend what seemed like a homecoming party at the Canadian Embassy, given us by our genial Ambassador and his charming wife, Colonel and Mme Vanier.

The Month With The W.I.

Nearly every branch has sent an overseas box for Christmas, some two, others three and four, a lovely expression of the true Christmas sharing for there is still much need. Cheer to the needy and sick in their own community, always a feature of monthly reports, was further stressed at this season of goodwill.

Argenteuil: All branches heard reports of the semi-annual meeting of the County W.I. Frontier had a paper on "Switzerland" prepared by Mrs. Graham and a contest, "Name your Cake", was won by Mrs. Fuller, Mrs. Murdoch and Miss Wilson. Jerusalem-Bethany, the Citizenship convenor read the prize winning essay, "A

Country Woman's Day", and a paper on "Citizenship and Neighbourliness". Donations included \$5 to the county scholarship, \$5 Salvation Army, \$25 English adoptee, and \$34.75 to Manitoba Relief. Under the auspices of the Lachute W.I., John Fisher, C.B.C. commentator, gave a talk at the Lachute High School, his theme being, "Canada's Great Opportunity". Prizes to the value of \$10 and \$5 will be given to the High School pupils for the best essay on "Democracy". Lakefield, the guest speaker, Mrs. S. Goldsworthy, gave a talk on "Immigration". Mille Isles was pleased to have as guest speaker, Mrs. Baugh, County president, who gave a talk on W.I. work. At Morin Heights a poem, "Is it Nothing to You", was read and the publicity convenor read Mrs. Graham's prize winning essay. Pioneer had a rugmaking course by Miss Bruneau. A mystery box and a box of homemade candy, donated by a junior member, Miss Carol, realized \$2.24. A paper on the "Prevention of Tuberculosis", was given by the convenor of Health and Welfare. Upper Lachute and East End featured a seasonal programme. A quilt made by this branch was sent to a Manitoba W.I.

Beauharnois: Nitro had as their guest speaker, Capt. T. E. Heron, manager of Canadian Arsenals, with an address entitled "Welfare." A cribbage party was held and a gift presented to Mrs. J. Tittel, the former president, who is moving away from the community.

Bonaventure: Black Cape collected jams, pickles, vegetables and money for the Soldiers' Memorial Hospital at Campbellton and made plans to send parcels to local boys now in service. Prizes were presented to pupils at the Consolidated School. Mrs. Alex Irvine, Convenor of Home Economics, prepared an article, "Preparation for Christmas", for the W.I. broadcast. Marcell sent a CARE parcel (\$10.60) to an English W.I. Plans were made for sending parcels to local children in residence at Boys' Farm and Training School and La Maison Lorette. New Richmond decided to replenish the First



Brownsburg makes rugs under Miss Bruneau's direction.

Aid kits. A demonstration on the care of a bed patient was given by a member who is a trained nurse. Port Daniel made plans for sending a Christmas parcel to the Sway W.I. England. A contest, "Gallery of Famous Faces", was won by Mrs. O'Flaherty and Miss Assels. Shigawake featured Citizenship and had a film on Canada, stressing the progress made in the last half century.

Chat-Huntingdon: Aubrey-Riverfield heard a paper on the late Hon. Mackenzie King and donated \$5 to the Q.W.I. Service Fund. Dundee entertained the teaching staff of the local Consolidated School. A jam and jelly shower was held for the local hospital. Franklin Centre members entertained their husbands, serving a chicken pie supper, followed by a social evening. Hemmingford reports a very successful school fair, the first held in 10 years. \$350 is being raised to furnish a Utility Room in the new hospital at Ormstown. A film, "Shaped by Danish Hands", was shown and Mrs. Thomson's report of the A.C.W.W. Triennial Conference in Copenhagen was heard with interest. Howick had a display of rugs with helpful pointers on making them. A paper, "Country Life in Denmark", was read and so was Mrs. Thomson's report of her trip to Denmark. Huntingdon donated 20 baskets of fruits, vegetables and jams to the local hospital, the two most attractive baskets winning prizes. \$25 were given the Q.W.I. Service Fund. Ormstown entertained the High School staff. Mr. Lang, Montreal, was guest speaker, his topic being, "The Old Order Changes."

Compton: Mrs. Thomson was guest speaker at the semi-annual in this county, telling of her trip to Denmark. While there she presented life membership to Mrs. J. Sherman, Mrs. E. Bennett, Mrs. M. Jenkerson, Mrs. L. Hooker, and Mrs. E. Weir. Mrs. Coates and Mrs. Kirby, Q.W.I. Convenors of Education and Home Economics, respectively, were also present and spoke briefly. Brookbury held an oyster supper and dance. The Guild and W.I. are defraying the cost of sending children to Bury Sunday School. 48 chairs and 12 card tables were purchased for the hall and \$5 voted to the cemetery fund, \$2 Bible Society, \$2 Salvation Army. Bury Juniors are swelling the treasury by making and selling their own Christmas cards. Bury Seniors report three life memberships. The outline on Welfare and Health was read. This branch furnished its full quota of donors for the Blood Clinic. \$11 were given for prizes to High School and plans made for a sewing course. Canterbury held a Citizenship programme with a jumbled name contest on prominent Canadians and a paper on "How to be a Good Citizen." Plans were made for a study of the work of the U.N. A charter member was honored with a life membership. Their allotment to the hospital was paid in full, \$5 sent the Q.W.I. Service Fund and \$5 to Bury for school prizes. East Angus branch realized \$40 from a paper drive and sent \$5 to Manitoba Relief. Prizes were given in Health to the local school and an address, "Home and School", by Mr. Grundy, Sherbrooke, featur-



Members of Minton W.I. taken at their September meeting. Mrs. N. D. McLeod of Lennoxville, guest speaker, is third from right. Her husband, Rev. N. D. McLeod is on her right.

ed their programme. East Clifton planned their programme on Citizenship. Cookshire arranged to help at the Blood Clinic. Their wheel chair is on loan to a member and a bundle of clothing was sent to the Salvation Army. A rummage sale netted \$34.17. Sawyerville too, has purchased chairs for their hall. Several members were blood donors at the Clinic. A paper on Citizenship was read and instructions for pre-shrinking material. Scotstown had six grandmothers present at their meeting, one celebrating her birthday. This branch furnished transportation for 30 people who attended the Blood Clinic at Cookshire. South Newport is deeply regretting the loss of six active members who have moved away.

Gaspé: L'Anse Aux Cousins made plans for a supper to help the funds and a quiz on etiquette proved interesting. Sandy Beach reports holding a parcel post sale which netted \$50 for the general funds. Wakeham had as their guest speaker, Mr. George Sams, president Gaspé Canadian Legion, whose address was entitled, "The Poppy Story". Donations were made to the Q.W.I. Service Fund and the parish cemetery fund. York donated \$5 to the community Christmas tree. The prize money won at the fair was distributed.

Gatineau: All branches heard reports of the county semi-annual meeting and all branches contributed to the rummage sale held at Hull in aid of county funds. Aylmer East celebrated its 25th anniversary. Highlights of the quarter century were given by Miss Janet Riley and a birthday cake, lighted by 25 candles was served. (Congratulations) Breckenridge had as guest, Mrs. Hayes, a member of the School Board, who was welcomed by Mrs. Fred Lusk. Red Cross work was distributed. Eardley had a quiz, "A Minute Biography of a Noted Person", and a paper, "Women's Rights in the Province of Quebec." A euchre party brought \$44 to the funds and \$10 was sent the Canadian Cancer Society. Rupert voted \$10 to Save the Children and \$15 for attendance prizes at three district schools. 400 tulip bulbs were planted in their

cemetery this fall. At Wakefield the Citizenship convenor spoke on "Jan Christian Smuts — a Great World Citizen." Reference was made to the fact that Dr. H. J. G. Geggie of Wakefield, was a speaker on the Farm Forum broadcast, "What's Happened to the Country Doctor." \$30 was cleared on the dinner served at the county meeting. Wright's guest speaker was Mr. J. B. Gnaedinger, manager of the Wakefield plant of the Aluminum Co., who gave a talk on "Lime and Magnesium Products", as they pertain to uses in the home. A member of this branch, Mrs. H. Ellard, Q.W.I. Convenor of Health and Welfare also spoke on the above mentioned broadcast.

Jacques Cartier: St. Annes is providing gifts for orphans at the home in Lachine and a party was held for the members. Two films were shown, "The Wise Buying of Meat, Fish and Poultry", and "Fruits and Vegetables". A fruit cake was sold, proceeds going to the Flower Fund.

Megantic: Inverness had their hall wired, catered for two suppers, gave \$25 towards projector for school, \$35 to Jeffrey Hale Hospital, \$25 to scholarship in local school, \$37.50 for prizes at the Horticultural Fall Fair and sent five crib quilts to Manitoba Relief.

Missisquoi: Cowansville heard a talk on "Parliamentary Law", given by a lady from England. Donations were sent to Institute for the Blind and Save the Children. Dunham is making plans for their annual tea and sale and Fordyce held a successful food sale. Stanbridge East had a course in weaving and decided to purchase a loom. \$10 was voted to the children in the community, for their party.

Pontiac: Bristol Busy Bees sponsored a party for 50 children, voted \$9 to Save the Children and \$10 to Q.W.I. Service Fund. A paper on Newfoundland was read. Fort Coulonge discussed the letter from Mrs. Thomson. Quyon catered at the official opening of the Onslow Intermediate School. Cod liver oil is being supplied to children of both local schools, a needy family is receiving help and Quyon's share toward the English adoptee was paid. Wyman heard the report of the Eastern Ontario W.I. given by Miss Pritchard, who attended. A paper on Human Rights was also given by the same speaker and she was presented with a gift prior to leaving to spend the winter in Victoria.

Richmond: At Cleveland each member handed in an article made from old material. Donations were sent to Q.W.I. Service Fund and St. Francis College. Denison's Mills presented a gift to a couple celebrating their golden wedding anniversary. (Congratulations) Melbourne Ridge held a darning contest with prizes. Richmond Hill reports a successful card party and a coin shower for two new babies. Shipton voted a donation to the Girl Guides. Spooner Pond completed a quilt for Manitoba Relief. Windsor Mills heard a talk on Polio and rheumatic fever given by Miss Fletcher, the school nurse. A donation was sent the Cancer Society.

Shefford: At Granby Hill plans were made for the annual sale and \$10 was sent the Salvation Army. South Roxton heard a paper, "Now What's Happened to E.R.P." Warden donated canned goods to the Bondville Orphanage and sent magazines to England to be distributed in hospitals.

Rouville: Abbotsford at a largely attended meeting varied the usual routine by having a programme given by a group of young people, featuring piano and vocal solos.

Sherbrooke: Ascot convened the lunch for those assisting at the Blood Clinic. Two quilts were tacked for the Red Cross, money donated to the Q.W.I. Service Fund, and vegetables to the V.O.N. sale. Brompton Road catered to a Rotary supper, held a dance and annual tea and sale. A cheque was presented the Sherbrooke Hospital to furnish a private room, also their share toward the county fund to furnish a children's ward, \$10 for Christmas treats, \$4 to hot school lunches and \$2 to a veteran. Cherry River held a social afternoon in honour of a lady who was celebrating her 85th birthday and presented her with a bouquet of flowers. Milby donated two quilts to the Red Cross, \$10 in prizes to three schools of the district, \$5 to the Community Chest and Q.W.I. Service Fund, and held a pickle and jam shower for the Sherbrooke Hospital. Orford voted money towards the furnishing of a children's ward at Sherbrooke Hospital and also held a jam shower for the hospital.

Stanstead: Ayer's Cliff collected 4610 lbs. of paper in a drive. \$15 was voted to school prizes. Beebe met with the Farm Forum for the Health broadcast and Minton voted \$5 to the Q.W.I. Service Fund. A quiz and limerick contest was conducted by the Citizenship convenor. North Hatley reports sending 3500 tea bags to Warnham W.I., Sussex, and a scrapbook of North Hatley. \$25 was received as a gift, lunch was served at an auction and the county meeting entertained. Stanstead North had a discussion on welfare and health and voted \$15 to the Q.W.I. Service Fund. Tomifobia voted \$25 toward the skating rink and sent parcels to needy soldiers in the hospital. An oyster supper and dance netted \$75. Way's Mills provided clothing in order that a child might attend school. National Health Magazines were given to two mothers and a paper read on "Citizenship."

Vaudreuil: Cavagnal cancelled their monthly meeting and held the semi-annual county meeting. In honour of their 25th anniversary a birthday cake was served, which was cut by Mrs. Tyson Robinson, the first branch president. Two new members were enrolled. Vaudreuil-Dorion welcomed six representatives of the local Cercle des Fermieres at their meeting. Proceeds from the annual card party amounted to \$140. The sum of \$11 was realized from the travelling basket and \$15 donated to Catholic Charities. An address entitled, "New Canadians" was given by Mrs. Gounod, who also displayed some beautiful handwork made by displaced persons.



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Strippings

by Gordon W. Geddes

Confession! I plumb forgot all about this last month. We had so many jobs to complete before freeze-up and before our help left us, that I was trying to forget the date. In respect to Strippings I succeeded too well (probably to the delight of the readers). At least the weather suffered the same lapse and continued right on as if it were still October. In addition Ivan was longer in completing his arrangements to go to the States than he expected so we had several extra weeks help there. Of course we didn't get it all done but we did do a lot that we really didn't expect to accomplish.

We got the addition to the stable pretty well done by the time the cattle came in. However the turnips turned

out so well that we had to put part of them there plus one pen of pigs until some went to market. So one heifer had to go in our "emergency" stall and isn't in her proper place yet. However she is quite comfortable there and probably will get placed soon. Most of the pigs went to market too early as the price was down. We used to avoid shipping at that time but it hasn't mattered so much lately so we have just bought small ones any time we needed them to keep the milk used up. Perhaps we shall have to begin to watch out again. Two cents a pound makes quite a difference on twenty hogs.

Our plans changed several times this fall with changing circumstances. We planned to plow the last of our newly purchased field this fall and were determined that there would be less rocks on it when this was done. A bulldozer was the proper tool for the job and we kept hearing that it was on the way. When the rest of the plowing was done we cleared one corner with the horses and started to plow there. After a great deal of conniving and contriving we finally got a bulldozer on the job, just a little too late for most efficient use but we did get most of the rocks off and Ivan finished most of the plowing. We also dug a pond where we hope it will hold some water to seep through and keep the springs in the pasture below going in dry spells. We shall have to build a sluice at the outlet before it will hold water as it fills with a rush when it fills. Probably it would be a good idea to plant some trees along the dam to hold it in place. The bulldozer started that for us by leaving a few upright in the earth it moved.

At one time we abandoned the idea of keeping up with programme of liming this fall. If we had to take off the rocks with horses there wasn't time for it. Also fixing the barn plus keeping some of the cows to increase the herd instead of selling them cut down the immediate income. However, at one of the times when the bulldozer was supposed to be with us shortly, we

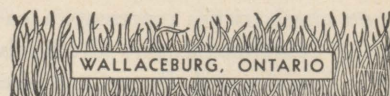
heard of a new source of supply for lime where it was much cheaper and could be had for \$2 per ton in the field in bulk. This seemed to answer both objections so we ordered sixteen tons and got it put on. We have been experimenting with a different time of application but do not yet know how it will work. Part of it we have put on after plowing in the fall on land to be seeded down the next spring. Some was put on in the spring just before seeding down. We have had good catches with both. However we feel safer in harrowing in what is put on top in the fall which means a lot of work (which we didn't get done this fall) for fear it may wash off. If one could get it all done in time to germinate some of the weeds and get rid of them, the harrowing would not be wasted but that is hard to manage. So we have tried putting it on a year earlier in the rotation. In this case we spread it on the sod before plowing. It is plowed in and then plowed back the year we seed it down. Last spring we seeded down the first field so treated and had a good catch this fall. Next spring we shall seed down a field where part of it was done each way. If this is practical the lime sows much easier on the sod, the truck can get where you want it easier and you don't have to harrow it in.

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We tried sowing fall rye after the potatoes and turnips again to have some for seed. But we had to wait for the cement to harden before we could get the turnips out of the way so we fully expect that it will not be successful. Still, the only way we can find out what one can get away with is to try it and we shall not be out a lot if it fails.

Our cattle seem determined to show us their individuality this year and not always to our advantage. One insists on using her horn to operate the water bowl. She lets out a little water, drinks it and lets out some more quite handily. Another got the habit of using her front foot but that was not so good as she always ran the bowl over. Put a stop to it to-day but maybe now she will refuse to work it at all. We already have one which has to be watered in a pail. Still another showed her temper when she got loose by tackling two heifer calves and ripping an eye open for each one. One was so bad that it looked hopeless. It did show us what nature can do with a little cooperation from man. We called the vet and he sewed it up, putting in six stitches, and it is now as good as ever again. So don't get the idea that cattle are all alike and can be treated the same.

Big Demand for New Blight-resistant Potatoes

Farmers across Canada are showing a real interest in the Canada Department of Agriculture's two new blight-resistant potatoes, Canso and Keswick. Released to certified seed potato growers early in October this year, applications to date are more than can be satisfied by the amount of seed-stock available, says H. T. Davies of the Dominion Experimental Station at Fredericton, N.B.

Produced as a result of the National Potato Breeding Project conducted by the Canada Department of Agriculture at Fredericton, the production of the two new varieties represents a co-operative effort on the part of officials of the Experimental Farms and the

Science Services over a 17 year period. During this time more than 90,000 seedlings were tested and of these 95 per cent were discarded. In addition to Canso and Keswick, there are many other promising seedlings under test and some of these it is hoped will prove even superior to those already introduced.

Workers actively engaged in the National Potato Breeding Project at Fredericton include I. C. Young and H. T. Davies of the Experimental Farm staff who direct the plant breeding phases of the project and evaluate the production from a horticultural standpoint. Science Service workers in the Division of Botany and Plant Pathology are J. L. Howatt, who conducts the tests for fungus and bacterial diseases and Dr. D. J. MacLeod who studies the reaction of the seedlings to virus diseases. Insect studies come under the direction of Mrs. J. B. Adams of the Division of Entomology and N. M. Parks of the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, supervises the outside tests in provinces other than New Brunswick.

Agricultural experimentation today calls for specialized training and experience on the part of all workers concerned. And the best results can

only be obtained with all specialists working together as a team, as was done in developing and introducing Canso and Keswick, the two new blight-resistant varieties of potatoes.

New Booklet On Health Co-ops

A new 93-page booklet, "Rural Health Cooperatives," by Helen L. Johnston, has been issued by the U.S. Public Health Service and the Farm Credit Administration. A result of a two-year field study, the booklet has a wealth of detail on organization, financing, growth and development and other aspects of the rural health co-op field. It may be ordered as FCA 60 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.

Sunflower Salad

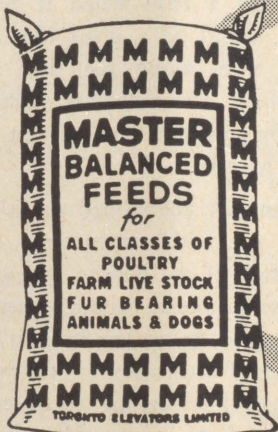
What is reported to be North America's only sunflower oil extracting plant is now producing Safflo, a salad oil. This plant, the Co-op Vegetable Oil Ltd., in Manitoba, also processes sunflower seed into oil, seed meal, and Pres-to-logs — a fuel. New plant and refining equipment, built at a cost of about \$250,000, has a capacity of 15,000 pounds of seed a day.

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Farm Improvement Loans

This Act offers a new plan for the financing of purchases of farm implements, agricultural equipment, etc., through loans which may be obtained from the chartered banks and guaranteed in part by the Dominion Government.

The farmer need no longer obtain necessary credit from several sources. He can combine all his credit requirements of this nature in a Farm Improvement Loan, which may be obtained at his bank. Other advantages are: he pays cash and gets a cash price for those things he buys; he avoids high interest rates and finance fees; he can get terms which are suitable to his particular needs.

These loans are easy to arrange through any one of the 3,100 branches of Canadian banks and the procedure is simple. Interest rate is 5% and there are no other finance or service fees.

The service is speedy, and the security is simple; a lien is given on the article purchased. Terms of repayment are suitable and convenient and take into consideration other existing liabilities of the borrower.

These loans are obtainable for two-thirds of the purchase price of all farm implements, including combines, threshers and tractors.

Agricultural equipment of all kinds, including equipment affixed to real or immovable property, orchard equipment, motor trucks for use on a farm, milking machines, milk coolers, freezers and farm refrigeration of all types.

Washing machines, churns, stoves, furnaces, heating and cooking appliances for use in the farm home.

Incubators, granaries.

Terms of repayment

Loans for cream separators, churns, washing machines, incubators, milking machines, refrigerators, heating and cooking appliances are, where practicable, repayable in monthly instalments.

Loans for the purchase of a motor truck are repayable in instalments every six months. In some cases where

a farmer has a monthly income, instalments will be payable monthly.

In respect to other farm machinery, instalment repayments may be provided up to twelve months.

Loans for the purchase of combines, tractors and threshers, the cost of which is more than \$1,500, must be repaid within three years.

Special consideration will be given

by the banks to applicants for loans who have had no previous banking connection and also to farmers living in outlying areas and at a distance from their nearest banking centre.

Further information may be obtained from any bank manager or from The Supervisor, Farm Improvement Loans Act, Department of Finance, Ottawa, Ont.

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THE COLLEGE PAGE

Christmas In The Olden Days

The Christmas Pageant is getting to be an annual fixture as a project in the School for Teachers, and this year's production was a very elaborate affair. It depicted Christmas as it might have been celebrated in a manor house in England in Elizabethan times, which gave a wonderful opportunity for study of costumes, music and customs of those days. All the Court figures were there; the cooks carried in the boar's head. Wassailers sang carols, a wandering troupe of actors presented a play, which in this case was "The Massacre of the Innocents"; Herod's soldiers carried out their parts in a manner that thoroughly terrified the younger children in the large audience.

Ballad singers and minstrels came next and the remainder of the programme was taken up with old familiar Christmas carols, led by the School for Teachers' choir, also in costume, joined by the audience.

Our photograph gives you some idea of the amount of painstaking work that went into the production. The elaborate costumes (which should have been photographed in colour to do them justice) were made by the students, using as their material brown wrapping paper and poster paint. The shields which hang from the roof of the hall are of the same materials. This particular group represents the Court and the courtiers; the lord of the manor and his lady, their jester, pages, and other attendants. Costumes of the other groups were just as colourful and just

as elaborate — even more so in the case of the three kings, whose robes were so stiff and so long that they experienced a certain amount of difficulty in mounting the steps to the stage.

All this, of course, is to show the students just what can be accomplished with a few inexpensive materials, and a lot of imagination and work. It is not likely that in many public school classrooms a programme like this could be carried out on such a large scale; but at any rate, the teachers-in-training know now what can be done with these materials and most of them will doubtless put many of these ideas into practice in the years to come when they have classes of their own to work with.

Mac Graduate is Going Abroad



John A. McLean, B.Sc. (Agr.) '47, has won a Nuffield Foundation scholarship which will permit him to spend six months with a farm family somewhere in the United Kingdom, living in the farm home, working with the family, exchanging

ideas, with other British farmers, acting, in fact, as an unofficial "goodwill ambassador" between the farmers of Canada and those of the Old Country.

For several years now, the Nuffield Foundation has provided the money for selected British farmers to come to Canada for short periods to learn something of our lives and our farming methods. This is the first time that Canadians have been included in the plan, to travel in the other direction, and it is due to the efforts of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture that this has been made possible. The only other Canadian holding a similar scholarship is Orrin Hart of Claresholm, Alberta, who will leave with Mr. McLean next spring for the visit to the British Isles.



Lime-Spreading by Truck

Lime spreading by truck, directly from the car to the field, is going over in a big way in Nova Scotia following the demonstrations put on recently in different parts of the province. Here's how the plan works:

The lime-spreading truck can carry about five tons, which is loaded directly from the car at the farmer's nearest railway siding. As soon as the truck is loaded, the driver proceeds to the farmer's field, engages the lime spreading unit which is operated on a transmission take-off, and spreads the limestone, in a belt about sixteen and a half feet wide, up hill and down dale, at about a speed of three miles an hour. The rate of application may be varied to suit the farmer's field requirements.

Twenty minutes after he drives into the field, the driver is off again for another load at the siding. If the haul is not too long, he can handle a car of limestone a day, providing, of course, that he has some help in shovelling at the car.

The cost of this service — and this is what the farmers who have used it appreciate — is \$1.50 per ton in a five mile radius, with five cents additional for every mile the truck has to operate beyond this limit. This is just about the cost of limestone if it is purchased in bags.

Shrub Roses Offer Fine Colour

What are popularly regarded as the protected and tender queens of the garden — Hybrid Perpetual and Hybrid Tea Roses — are familiar to many gardeners. Few, however, realize the wealth of hardy shrub roses that provide good bloom and varying foliage for interesting contrasts in the shrub border all through the season, says R. W. Oliver, Division of Horticulture, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

The best known of these is Harison's Yellow because its profuse, pale, yellow single flowers have graced the dooryard of Canadian farm homes for almost 200 years. Like most of the shrub roses it has only one short season of bloom, but has attractive small foliage throughout the summer, followed by black fruits in fall. As it suckers freely the growth is always dense.

The red leafed rose (*Rosa rubifolia*) on the other hand makes very thin, leggy growth and has a few red single flowers. Its chief attraction is its dull purple red foliage that offers a pleasing contrast to the greens of other shrub roses.

The Japanese fruiting rose (*Rosa rugosa*) has rough crinkled dark green foliage and colourful scarlet fruits. The species has large single carmine flowers but many attractive hybrids have been produced from it. Several of them like Mme Georges Bruant, Sir Thos. Lipton and Blanche Double de Coubert have large double flowers with

prolonged season. Others, like F. J. Grootendorst, flower pretty well over the season until frost.

The smooth rose (*Rosa blanda*) has almost no prickles. The variety Betty Bland is a tall upright shrub with good sized double pink flowers. By contrast the dull red wood is very attractive in the shrub border during winter and spring.

Because all these roses are hardy, coming well through average winters at Ottawa without protection, they have been used as parents for the rose breeding program at the Central Experimental Farm and have produced many interesting hybrids that are good additions for the shrub borders in Canadian gardens. The best of these are: Agnes, Grace, Orinda, Sylvania, Mohawk and Iroquois. This group gives a range in height from three to seven feet, a variety of growth habit and a spread of colour from creamy yellow to deep red. Their acquaintance as shrubs is worth making.

Learn While You Laugh

A lot of useful information for farmers is being turned out by commercial firms these days. The last lot that has come to our notice is an unusual series of three short illustrated pamphlets published by the Canadian Bank of Commerce, and distributed by its branches.

"Why should a bank bother about farm pamphlets?" you may ask. There is a very good reason; thousands of branch banks are located in rural areas, where their business depends on farmers' prosperity. So the better informed the farmers are, the more the bank will thrive.

"But what do bankers know about farming, anyway?" is a logical second question. Of course, some bankers come from farms; but that isn't the point. The Canadian Bank of Commerce hasn't relied on what its employees knew — it's gone to a college or government expert for information on each subject. And the experts were well enough chosen that the contents are both authentic and practical.

The subjects are modern machinery, family farm business agreements and pasture improvement. But they have been dressed up so that the titles read: "More Power to You," "Keeping the Farm in the Family," and "Pasture on the Production Line." The text in each is straightforward and readable, and is illustrated with laughable cartoons which drive home many a point.

All in all, these are very useful pamphlets which put across important ideas in an interesting way. And you don't have to wallow through a mass of propaganda to get at the content. The bank's own squib takes up only one page of text at the very back. We could use a lot more material that has been as carefully prepared, as thoughtfully presented and as humorously illustrated.



Said the wise old owl to friend Blair:
"With your farm in such need of repair
You really should go
To The Commerce, you know,
And ask about farm loans, there."

The Commerce extends a welcome to all
farmers wishing to discuss farm loans
or in need of banking service.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce

"The Commerce"